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Vandalism named a bias incident

BART makes a formal statement, XUPD investigation still in progress

BY HUNTER ELLIS AND
CHLOE SALVESON
*Managing Multimedia
Editor and Staff Writer*

While the Xavier University Police Department's (XUPD) investigation of the vandalism that occurred outside Bellarmine Chapel the weekend of Jan. 29 is still ongoing, the Bias Advisory and Response Team (BART) has officially declared it as a bias incident.

BART responded to the incidents in a website post on Feb. 3. Allegedly, a member of Patriot Front, an organization listed by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a "White nationalist hate group," committed the vandalism. BART's response "determined that it meets the University's definition of a bias incident."

The message encouraged students to access community resources, such as diversity and inclusion events and counseling services' drop-in hours.

The response was not sent to the student body partially because of the letter written by President Michael Graham, S.J., on Monday, Feb. 1. In part, the letter read:

"As a University we shall continue to denounce these acts. And as our president, I will continue to unequivocally declare my belief — our belief — that Racism is a Sin and BLACK LIVES MATTER. You can be sure, as well, that we will investigate these crimes. Let me also assure you that we will leverage all of our resources to care for the safety and wellbeing of all our community members, in particular our Black students, staff and faculty."

In the wake of this letter, Black student leaders recognized that the university was more responsive than it has

been in the past, but criticized it for not doing more.

"We need way more action rather than just statements and the typical '(I don't) condone racism' on every single page. While we really love that people are showing their support during this time, it's just best if we have more actual action," senior Sierra Stennis said of the university's response.

According to Xavier's Chief of Police Robert Warfel, XUPD's investigation remains ongoing as they cooperate with Northern Kentucky University (NKU) Police, Thomas Moore College, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism Task Force based out of the Cincinnati and Louisville field offices.

"There is no continuing threat or... concern for the safety of any member of the Xavier community relative to this act, but we are continuing to explore all leads and information," Warfel stated.

However, some students, such as senior Andrew Michael, implied that XUPD was unprepared for this incident.

"XUPD's response to this... has just made students feel unsafe. (People) felt like there was more protection being provided by this police force, but they have... been caught with their pants down," Michael said.

Senior Cameron Lakes also noted a need for preventative measures instead of reactionary ones.

"Some preventative things we can do, now that we've had this conversation, is putting measures in place to not allow (White supremacist acts) to happen again," Lakes said.

According to student witnesses, vandalism of Xavier and Bellarmine property occurred between 5 p.m. on



NewsWire photo by Chloe Salvesson

Community members have filled the peace circle outside Bellarmine Chapel with signs affirming that 'Black Lives Matter' and 'Hate Has No Home Here.' They remain standing despite the recent wind and heavy snowfalls.

Friday, Jan. 29 and 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 30. Students found stickers promoting Patriot Front and Bellarmine's Black Lives Matter banner sliced in half. Both the sign and stickers were taken down by XUPD within a couple of hours.

Initially, just 12 stickers were first reported to XUPD on Jan. 30 at 3:43 p.m. However, XUPD, in coordination with Physical Plant, located and removed a total of 15 to 17 stickers that weekend.

"They conduct these propaganda efforts to influence people to search for their name, through curiosity or concern, causing 'hits' to their sites," Warfel added to his statement. "This attention often empowers extremist groups to attempt additional propaganda acts in the hope of creating another news story or media coverage."

These stickers were posted in various locations across campus, including on lamp posts outside of Bellarmine Chapel and Gallagher Student Center, on the doors of Alter Hall and on signage near Buenger Hall.

Warfel also explained that

Patriot Front has targeted Xavier and the surrounding community before.

"We had a previous documented appearance of this group at Xavier in 2019 which was addressed by XUPD, and there have been no further incidents until January 2021," he said.

"It's not surprising because this isn't the first time," Lakes stated. "Now that the White nationalists groups have invaded our space, our Xavier bubble (and) this place that is supposed to be a home... it's more real and something we have to confront because it came to us."

"It's not something new for White supremacy groups to be on Xavier's campus," Michael added. "We've seen this at SGA elections (when) Turning Point USA tried to influence that. We've seen a Turning Point USA Instagram account pop up... This vandalism is just the culmination of all of it, an organization has finally come on Xavier's campus, posted stuff and defaced a progressive sign."

Since then, many smaller signs created by students and members of the Bellarmine

community have taken the defaced sign's place in the peace circle. Such actions have encouraged many people on campus, including Graham.

"I have been heartened by the shows of solidarity and support I have heard of and those I've seen — like the 'garden' of signs that has been constructed where the desecrated sign stood," Graham said.

As XUPD continues their investigation, NKU recently released an image of a suspect for their vandalism, which occurred two days before the incident on Xavier's campus.

While XUPD is actively partnering with fellow law enforcement agencies, Warfel also commented on the nature of Xavier's investigation.

"Investigations take time and are often constructed of fragmented pieces which need to be assembled through collaboration and cooperation to form a clear picture of what occurred," Warfel said.

Any community members with relevant information about the vandalism are still encouraged to contact the XUPD non-emergency number.

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A revised plan for this spring's commencement includes four in-person ceremonies.



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Myanmar's democratic government has been overthrown, inciting nation-wide riots.



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Xavier men's soccer enter their season with a 1-1 record after a tough loss to Kentucky.



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Whether you're single, taken or in-between, we've got a Valentine's Day plan for you.



Commencement pushed forward

Only graduates will attend in person given social distancing guidelines



photo courtesy of xavier.edu

With several changes, this year's ceremony will look different with the most prominent change being that family will not be allowed to be present.

BY EMMA STEVENS
Staff Writer

On Feb. 2, the Commencement Committee announced that the Spring 2021 Commencement exercises will occur earlier than originally scheduled and will be taking place in a unique format to accommodate the current COVID-19 restrictions.

Four different commencement ceremonies will take place in Cintas Center Saturday, May 8 and Sunday, May 9.

The ceremonies will be divided by the four different colleges within the University: the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Nursing, the College of Professional Sciences and the Williams College of Business.

The health and safety of

graduates was a chief concern of the Commencement Committee when planning the Spring Commencement.

As it stands now, students will not be allowed to bring a guest to attend the ceremony in person, but it will be livestreamed for family and friends to safely view the event.

However, the Commencement Committee also explained that if national or local guidelines change to allow the university to safely include guests, the committee will extend the option for graduates to invite 1 to 2 guests.

Concerns surrounding COVID-19 also played a large role in the date change for the ceremonies.

The Commencement Committee Co-Chairs, Whitney Costner and Dr. Leah Busam-

kenowski, stated that the concern for student safety took precedence in changing the date.

"Our primary reason for hosting Commencement the weekend of May 8 and 9 is to allow students to depart campus as soon as possible after classes end," Busamkenowski said. "This allows us to (get students off) the campus sooner, which helps mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and allows students to begin their next steps as soon as possible."

With commencement being moved up, the week traditionally known as senior week will not take place.

The time is usually used to verify student eligibility and prepare diplomas but the commencement committee believes that this time is not needed to prepare for this year's events.

Though many changes needed to be made to the traditional Commencement Ceremony to abide by COVID-19 protocols, many aspects of the ceremony designed to make the experience as enjoyable as possible for graduates.

The decision to separate the ceremonies by college was also deeply informed by student opinion.

"One of the most clear and consistent student recommendations was to host smaller ceremonies by college," Costner and Busamkenowski said.

To best capture the opinions of graduates, Costner and Busamkenowski sent out a survey in October to all students who graduated in Au-

gust 2020, who were expected to graduate in December 2020 or who were expecting to graduate in May 2021.

"More than 1300 students who responded to the survey resoundingly supported the recommendation for multiple in-person ceremonies by college," according to Costner and Busamkenowski.

According to the two, having the ceremonies separated in this way allows students to enjoy their graduation experience surrounded by the individuals with whom they shared most of their classroom time. Dividing the ceremonies by college also allows for some aspects of the ceremony to be tailored to the spe-

cific programs.

"At each ceremony we will have both a graduate and undergraduate student speaker from each college rather than a single student speaker," said Costner and Busamkenowski. "We will also be able to honor distinguished alumni with connections to each college as part of each ceremony."

The Commencement Committee is excited to host these unique ceremonies and celebrate the many graduates who will attend.

More information on Commencement or any changes to the events between now and the weekend of Commencement will be announced on Xavier's website.

November 16, 2020 Student Government Association Meeting Recap

BY CHLOE SALVESON

- Surveillance COVID-19 testing began last week. Thirty to 40 students are being randomly chosen each week to be tested in the Health United Building.
- SGA is hosting an event featuring Black history trivia and catering from local Black owned businesses next Wednesday 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Gallagher Student Center's lower level.
- President Mickey Townsend and Chief Justice Andrew Geraghty are currently creating a committee with the intention of amending the SGA Constitution.

Take It On initiative extends into the new year

BY ANDREW ZERMAN
Staff Writer

Take It On, Xavier's non-partisan political unity initiative, has been extended into 2021 with hopes of continuing to encourage Xavier students to be active participants as citizens.

The team includes history professor Rachel Chrastil, Chief Diversity and Inclusion officer Janice Walker, Associate Provost and Chief Student Affairs Officer David Johnson and Government Relations Director Sean Comer.

"The initiative was started in early 2020 at the request

of Father Graham to try to address what we anticipated would be a very intense political season," Chrastil stated. "Throughout 2020, the team developed norms for dialogue."

They were able to accomplish that in 2020 by having multiple events, among them a student-led restorative justice circle that met twice.

"Students from different political parties had the opportunity to talk through issues of importance and in a manner that was both civil and productive," Chrastil explained.

Their team also ensured that Xavier would have remote classes for the 2020 general election.

This is the only time in recent memory that such a move has been made.

By doing so the team hopes to increase student participation in the general election and wanted to ensure that anyone who wanted to volun-

teer at the polls could do so.

Chrastil herself has been an active voter since she became of voting age.

"Father Graham invited a number of campus leaders to talk through what (Take It On) might look like, and it seemed like something that I really wanted to be a part of," Chrastil said.

While 2021 may not have as many political seats up for grabs and the primary election falls on finals week, Chrastil encouraged students to vote for their local candidates.

"We encourage students to participate, as that will be the primary election for the mayor of Cincinnati and that is a very important position," she said. "We are thinking of ways that we might help introduce the candidates to the campus so that students can make an informed decision," Chrastil added.

While Take It On advocates for political unity, Chrastil re-

alizes that this is not always possible. For example, some groups have different morals as opposed to different political views.

"With the Patriot Front on campus last week, there are some groups that are trying to challenge people's human dignity," she stated. "We sometimes have to draw a line in saying that there are some groups with goals that go against human dignity."

Chrastil also had some final words for those who are indifferent about politics or think that their votes are insignificant.

"Your vote matters," she said. "It affects who is in power both locally and nationally, (which has) huge ramifications for those who are in our country and for our everyday experiences. In the broadest sense, politics are about how we can as a society work together to solve the problems that we all care about and working together is really important."



Photo courtesy of xavier.edu

The Take It On initiative looks to continue its mission into the new year.

Digital Media Lab helps creators

As ice and COVID keep folks inside, DML keeps the creativity flowing.

BY EMILY CROFT
Staff Writer

Located on the third floor of the Conaton Learning Commons, the Digital Media Lab (DML) has modified its space and operations to satisfy pandemic regulations.

Within the DML, students can find an array of equipment available to them to use for classroom projects or personal hobbies.

Poster printing is the only mechanism within the DML that Xavier students must pay to use. Everything else, including the shooting studio, audio recording equipment, computers and space are free for students to use at any time.

Student workers and staff continue to be optimistic about the space and encourage students to become more involved with the DML.

Aidan Siegel, a staff member for the DML, discussed the hidden treasures it has to offer the Xavier community.

“The ability to use Adobe and all the cameras are really good options to have since students just have to rent them out for free,” he noted.

Unlike the Makerspace, student are not necessarily required to have a reservation when using certain equipment in the DML.

Mac and PC computers are free for students to walk in and hop on, while the audio recording studio and shooting

studio need one-hour-block reservations. It may be recommended to go earlier rather than later if they need it for a school project.

Paul Weber, video and digital media technologist, discussed the popularity of the DML when it comes to classroom projects.

“We tend to know exactly when a project is due because we have a flood of students coming in without reservations to use the equipment,” he explained.

“We want to save you from a walk in the cold if we don’t have any equipment available at the time,” weber added.

With the pandemic in full swing, the DML has adjusted its policy for returning equipment so proper cleaning and disinfecting can take place before another student uses the same technology.

“During the checkout process, we clean the technology and quarantine it so the students don’t have to, and we don’t want them to worry about cleaning the equipment anyway,” weber said.

They also had to take away lounge chairs and couches in the DML to maximize the space for computers in the lab while following social distancing rules.

Looking forward, the DML is unsure if they will be able to host any events this semester because of the uncertainty of the pandemic.



Newswire photo by Desmond Fischer

Despite working to stay safe during the pandemic, the digital media lab is giving student creators useful tools.

Social distancing it has been particularly hard on the DML. “The biggest thing that we tend to struggle with is students knowing that we are here and everything that we have to offer we spent the money, so use what we have to offer,” weber added.

Weber also added that the DLM is always searching for new and intriguing equipment that students may want.

Based on what is being asked for and what is becoming popular, the DML wants to offer students everything they need.

Students speak on their snow day shenanigans

BY EMILY CROFT
Staff Writer

Even though Xavier students had no classes on Tuesday, the school also called the day off for employees due to inclement weather.

With inches of snow and no class, we asked students how they spent their day off.



“I pierced my ears with a kit from Amazon and no prior experience.”

- Lesley Webster
First-year theater education major



“I went sledding and built a snowman with my friends.”

-Tyler Clifton
First-year Philosophy, Politics and the Public major



“I studied economics and spent the rest of my day inside.”

- Andrew Geraghty
Junior Philosophy, Politics and the Public major



“I caught up on *The Bachelor*.”

- Cedar Earlywine
First-year Philosophy, Politics and the Public major



“I went to the Clock Tower Lounge to study O-Chem with my friends. We enjoyed the scenery and watched people throw snowballs at each other.”

-Devon Baird
Junior biology major

Acton steps down for Senate bid

Former Ohio Health Director leaves nonprofit, exploring candidacy options

BY ANDREW ZERMAN
Staff Writer

Senator Rob Portman, R-Ohio, will not be running for reelection, citing “ongoing divide between parties” as a primary reason for his retirement. This expands the field of potential candidates for his Senate seat, and among the list of potential candidates is former Ohio Health Director Dr. Amy Acton.

Acton, who was appointed as health director, has not yet run for any elected positions. If she opts to run for Portman’s seat, Acton will run as a Democrat.

Current Ohio Governor Mike DeWine declined to speak about Acton’s upcoming candidacy, stating to ABC that he “is going to stay out of Democrat primaries.”

According to ABC, it is anticipated that the Democratic primaries could feature as many as a few dozen candidates. Tim Ryan, a 2020 presidential candidate and a representative for Ohio’s 13th district, has also expressed interest in the senatorial Democratic primary, a New York Times source reports.

Ohio is one of five states that has both a Republican and a Democratic senator. A Democratic victory in 2022 could whittle that down to four and hamper Republicans’ hopes of taking back the Senate in

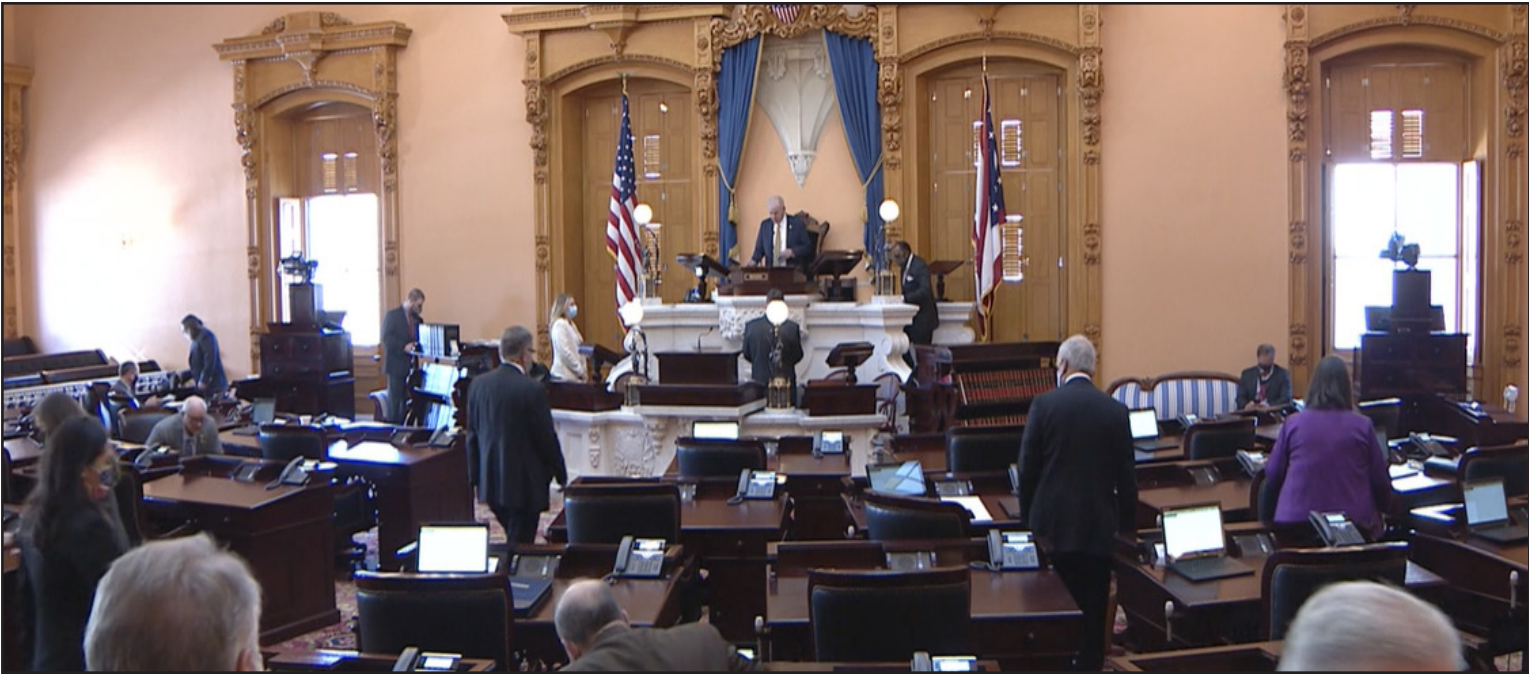


Photo courtesy of ohioenate.gov

Though no one has officially announced their candidacy for the 2022 vacancy yet, Acton is thought to be one of many Democrats who might entertain the idea. The New York Times reported that Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio, has also expressed interest in filling the vacancy left by Sen. Portman, R-Ohio.

the midterms. A Republican victory in 2022 would continue the bipartisan pair of Senators that Ohio has had in Congress for over 15 years.

Ohio has acted as a majority Republican state in recent years, leaning red in the last two presidential elections.

The state also has a Republican majority state legislature, Republican majority federal legislature and a Republican governor.

Despite this, Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, was able to win another six year term in 2018. Ohio Democrats hope to repeat that victory with the 2022 Senate elections.

Acton served as the health director when the COVID-19 pandemic started to take shape in Ohio.

Despite being on opposite sides of the political spectrum, she and DeWine were praised by numerous outlets such as Time Magazine and CNN for their early shutdown recommendations that set a precedent for many states to follow.

Acton stepped down as the health director in June 2020, shortly after the Republican-controlled Ohio Senate attempted to pass legislation that would curb her powers to enact health orders. The bills

have since gone to the desk of DeWine, but were unsuccessful.

Acton was involved in The Columbus Foundation until earlier this month, a nonprofit program which is described by The Columbus Dispatch as “an initiative focused on building community, kindness and goodwill.”

Acton released a statement announcing her retirement from her job at The Columbus Foundation, stating that “Many Ohioans have shared with me their concerns and daily challenges that they face. They have expressed a need for a new approach that can

help them and their communities thrive.”

“I am humbled by the outpouring of interest and support. For that reason, I am stepping down from my role in The Columbus Foundation in order to carefully consider how I can best be of service (to Ohioans) at this crucial time,” Acton added.

Democratic and Republican primaries are scheduled to take place in May 2022. As of right now, no individual has announced their senatorial candidacy. Many people, however, have been exploring the possibility of running, including Acton.

The Lighter Side

“The Weirdest, Wackiest and Wildest News of the Week!”



Wagyu winners, snake books, toad milk, Magic bandit, sexy cow

- A prized Akaushi bull — whose meat is turned into high-quality Wagyu beef — is part of a spunky Super Bowl deal. Owners of the bull, named “Tom Brady,” promised free semen samples from the heifer if the Bucs won the big game (Feb. 5).
- A woman who checked out a library book from Carnegie Mellon University was shocked to find a small bag containing a live snake inside of the book (Feb. 5).
- A California naval officer received an unusual gift this week: a wallet he lost 53 years ago while on duty in Antarctica (Feb. 5).
- The El Paso Zoo announced a virtual Valentine’s Day program in which you can name a cockroach after your ex and the zoo will feed it to one of their animals. The program is free, but donations are encouraged (Feb. 5).
- Pornography website Stripchat noted that the site’s viewership in Tampa spiked by 15% after the Bucs’ Super Bowl win on Sunday (Feb. 7).
- A Texas lawyer was forced to make an odd clarification after struggling to remove a Zoom filter from his screen during a court hearing. “I’m not a cat,” the lawyer told the judge (Feb. 9).
- A Greek man honored his late uncle’s love of heavy metal by turning his skeleton into a functioning electric guitar (Feb. 7).
- A digital photo gallery owner had portraits of a cow



Photo courtesy of creativecommons.org

Conservationists ask toad-lickers to stop milking hallucinogenic toads.

- blocked by the Facebook ad algorithm on the basis that they were “overtly sexual.” Other photos that Facebook found “too sexy” include shots of a high-rise office building and a pond (Feb. 8).
- A 90-year-old Northern California man spent \$10,000 in ad space in the Wall Street Journal to pen a complaint letter to AT&T, his internet and cellular provider (Feb. 9).
- An eight-year-old listener accused NPR’s *All Things Considered* program of... not considering all things. “I never hear much about nature or dinosaurs or things like that. Maybe you should call your show *Newsy Things Considered*, since I don’t get to hear about all the things,” the boy wrote to the show’s producers (Feb. 9).
- Canadian police are searching for a man who robbed a game store of all their Magic the Gathering cards while brandishing a large sword (Feb. 10).
- Activists are asking citizens to stop “milking” the Sonoran Desert toad, an endangered species which is often recognized for its hallucinogenic secretions (Feb. 10).



Photo courtesy of pixabay.com

A Pennsylvania woman found a bagged snake inside of her library book.

Military stages coup in Myanmar

A democracy since 2011, Myanmar's government falls to police pressure



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Protestors have taken to the streets this week as Myanmar's government was toppled by a military coup d'etat. The nation has been a democracy since 2011, when monks protested military leadership during the Saffron Revolution. Humanitarians worry about the coup's effect on human rights.

BY ERIN ALBRIGHT
Staff Writer

Protests in the streets of Myanmar have continued for five consecutive days after the military staged a coup d'etat to overthrow the reelected democratic leadership early last week.

Myanmar, a Southeast Asian nation of 54 million, has been under civilian rule since 2011. Prior to that, the country was ruled by internal armed forces after gaining independence from Britain in 1948.

Aung San Suu Kyi of the National League for Democracy was reelected as President of Myanmar on Monday, Feb. 1. Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and former political prisoner, established the nation's first civilian government. She spent the last six years leading the country and won the recent election by a landslide.

Power was quickly seized by the military, causing civilians to turn to the streets to protest the unjust rule. Military officials detained government leaders, including Suu Kyi, who was placed under

house arrest.

The military has declared a year-long state of emergency, as allowed by the nation's constitution, citing its plans to hold a "free and fair" election once the state of emergency is over. Current leaders also cut internet services, restricted social media, limited print media and took news channels off the air.

The coup has caused the largest protests in the country since the Saffron Revolution in 2007 when thousands of monks rose up against the military regime. Hundreds of thousands have turned out in

the past week to defend the nation's fledgling democratic ideals.

Commander in Chief Min Aung Hlaing is now running the country. He has justified the military takeover as being on the side of the people in hopes of forming a "true and disciplined democracy," despite the election being 83% in support of the National League for Democracy to be in rule.

Since the military last held power in 2011, Myanmar has had more social freedoms, greater foreign investment and a growing middle class.

The country has spent the last decade opening up to the world and democratizing.

Police have taken to using increased force upon protestors, using rubber bullets, water cannons and tear gas in an attempt to dull the crowds, noting that protests on Tuesday were the most violent yet. One woman was shot and is in critical condition. Hundreds of injuries have been reported but no deaths so far.

The demonstrations have gone against the recent ban on large gatherings as well as the recent night curfew that was put in place.

Families have taken to a traditional practice of banging on pots and pans at 8 p.m. each evening, an activity thought to "drive out the devil." Others have worn red clothing and bandanas to signify their solidarity with Suu Kyi's political party.

The neighboring countries of China, Japan, Singapore and Thailand view the coup as an "internal matter," despite having great influence on the economy of Myanmar.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the coup a "serious blow to democratic reforms." U.S. President Joe Biden has threatened to reinstate sanctions.

The coup is said to have likely erased the nation's work from the past 10 years against military rule.

Should CPS open schools in-person?

After a teachers union failed to halt reopening, CPS starts in-person classes

BY ERIN ALBRIGHT
Staff Writer

Despite failed legal action by a teachers' union last week, Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) have reopened in a hybrid format. Students attend class in-person some days and online others.

Union president Julie Sellers said that internal polling showed that 80% of Cincinnati teachers felt uncomfortable with the COVID-19 precautions for their in-person learning spaces.

"We are disappointed the Board of Education and Superintendent (Laura) Mitchell

refused to seek input from teachers about when and how to reopen schools safely, even as Hamilton County remains rated 'red' on Ohio's COVID rating," Sellers said.

We asked Xavier students if they believe this is safe for the teachers, students and faculty of CPS.



"They should go in person. My high school is in person now, and I think most kids do better from an in-person setting. Being safe and social distancing can keep the school open."

- Shannon Haddox
First-year computer science major



"I don't think Cincinnati Public Schools should reopen. While learning online is not the easiest task to ask of a student, with the unpredictable weather and the COVID-19 virus on the rise... it would still be unsafe for the students and their families."

- Jacob Buonaccorsi
First-year finance major



"I do think Cincinnati Public Schools should reopen because (they provide) kids a better learning and social experience. It is important to maintain a sense of normalcy. They should be able to interact with their peers at school."

- Michael Lay
First-year criminal justice major



"I don't think they should reopen in person. I don't think it is safe enough to put a bunch of children together like that, especially when... you most likely will not be able to tell when a child is sick or not with the coronavirus. You make standards and guidelines for how schools react, but at the end of the day, are you really going to be able to control all these kids?"

- Declan Tom
Junior political science major



"I definitely think they need to be in-person... God forbid, if there is poverty or disruption in the home, I think that's really important to consider. But I don't think it should be all at once, everybody in-person. There should definitely be some integration with the public school system, not even just here but all over the country. At the same time, Cincinnati, the whole country, you name it, staying in helps keep this virus under control."

- Courtney Corrado
Sophomore Philosophy, Politics and the Public major

The power of reflection

Stop, relax, now breathe. Step back and look beyond your trivial days, the classes you are struggling in, that one teacher you cannot stand or maybe even your newfound success. Wherever you are, take a moment to let your mind be still. It is here in the stillness where we can engage in a moment of genuine reflection.

While you and I are not together in the physical sense — at this moment — we share a space in our minds. We hold the power to investigate our inner conflicts, thoughts and fears.

However, time is limited, so ask yourself: What is your purpose? Your purpose may not be your career. Who are you? Your accomplishments and failures do not define you. Does your ambition match your aspirations? The effort you put into your craft may lay the groundwork for future opportunities. And what will you do today to start working toward your dreams?

The creation of healthy

habits changes the character of the individual. These questions will remain prominent and relevant to us through every stage of our lives. To not call into question our desires, purpose and conflicts would be a great misfortune. To properly reflect, we must be aware of our surroundings and how we experience the world.

So here we are: college. The vehicle of success engineered to funnel you through a four-year institution and promptly thrust you into the working world with the tools to attain autonomy, freedom and prosperity. Most of us attending this university are undergoing some of the most transformative years of our lives. What we do now, at this age, may very well determine what we do in our future endeavors.

Here is where we wrestle with Plato and Socrates, come to understand the dichotomy of our future success while keeping our morality intact and learn what it means to undergo social, psychological

and spiritual death. So much to juggle in four years with little time to reflect. But the idea of college seems so simple. Input and output. Plug yourself in, and out comes success — a simple system mashed with complex, extraneous struggles.

Missing assignments, poor time management and social notoriety are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the pollution and desensitization of the student mind.

It is much harder to find happiness while trying to give happiness. It's harder to find your way when you're on your way, and it's harder to find the cure for racism while being the victim of racism. In the words of the powerful Dr. Kyra Shahid, "It is hard to advocate, fight and be a part of the system."

To deal with the pressure of school, self-care and the

looming fear of life after college, we must be willing to be self-aware, observant and reflect. We are in a never-ending process of calling ourselves into question and interrogating assumptions we believe to be fundamental.

When you give yourself up to self-examination and let go of a dogma, an assumption or a presupposition, you experience a form of death. The relationship between death and resurrection should be at the core of our very being. Go into deep reflection, discover something new about yourself and grow from that discovery.

While we are all presented with different sets of social, physical and personal challenges, I urge you to spend a considerable amount of time formulating the blueprint for how you will face the present and impending trials. Be meticulous and calculated in how

you plan to impact the world in your own capacity. No matter how grand or small your influence may be, do it to the best of your ability.

Acknowledgment of essential and pressing questions such as these are just the beginning of navigating life's journey. Do not let this be the extent of your dose of reflection. Set a plan for yourself, improve it and act upon it. As you set out to embark on the strenuous challenges life will present, stick to the fight and remain vigilant during the tough times, for that is where you will find your breakthroughs.



Naiem Woolfork is a junior English and criminal justice double major. He is a guest writer for Newswire from Boston.

A change of heart

At this moment, I had decided to let go of my potential serialization of "The Abstractions." The reason is because I was influenced by a good friend on the importance of positivity and the importance of easing the tensions of reality by focusing on the good and prosperous.

I will, therefore, express this positivity in regards to my kind, rather than express dry contempt and recycled critiques on societal dynamics and historical consequences. Those critiques, as bland and repetitive as they may be, are based on my desire to see a better world.

But I can't expect this better world until I begin to expect the best of humanity. For me to ascribe one moral description to our kind — that description being evil — would be unjust and counterproductive in my goal to see this betterment.

This, however, does not mean that we will ignore the harms that the suppressors of freedom have committed

against the common people. I will still write on their crimes and transgressions. But I will no longer continue to ignore their potential humanity, wherever that might be.

I will hate them for what they prey upon and for their open disregard for freedom. They are still my enemies. And for me to punish them for the subjugation of my fellow brothers and sisters is completely justified.

But alas, in the end, they are not my teachers, and I am not obligated to physically manifest my hatred toward them. I will slowly begin to open my heart toward them — within limits, of course. But at the same time, I will hate the oppressive structures they maintain and the evil they represent.

I sincerely love humanity. And as I fight the oppressor with such unyielding hatred of them, I will pray for them and I hope to guide them away from their evil. I would also like to express this love to whoever is reading this

piece, for you are also human and thus deserving of that love. And all this love of humanity comes from a desire to live happily and lovingly with them.

I would like to look into the eyes of my fellow human beings and pour into their heart the flame of endearment. The spark of friendship. The joy of laughter. And most importantly, the warmth of my spirit. I hope to befriend them with a genuine passion. I hope that we will be able to share with each other our fondness for humanity and culture and use that fondness for the good of mankind.

There is no real point to this piece. As spacious and vacuous as this seems, I just felt it was necessary to turn back to the root of loving humanity for its best people, rather than only hating it for its worst. People are capable of change and always will

be.

For me to say that the person who is an oppressor is inherently evil does not make much sense. And when I say oppressor, I'm not simply referring to the capitalist and the imperialist. I'm also referring to those average people who have evil ascribed to them because of their harmful actions and hurtful words.

Why should I attach evil to the sole essence of their being? The answer is that I shouldn't. Evil is not to humans as brightness is to the sun. Hurtful behavior is not to people as having four sides is to a square. If this is the given reality, then I must apply this to the oppressors, since they are also people.

I raise this concern for myself because I'm inclined to believe that I'm beginning to hate the oppressors, more than I ought to love the people they oppress. Of course, that should not be the case for me. And that is not to say that I will hate the oppressors less. It is only that I must love the oppressed more. And I genuinely hope that this maturation of my worldview is not a temporary one, but one that lasts long and develops and continues to mature.

I say, farewell to coldness and hello to warmth. And I pray that this maturation does not lead me astray from maintaining my values of solidarity and revolutionary action, but strengthen them. I say, with much gusto, may goodness come to all, until death and beyond.



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Human trafficking is modern slavery

A few years ago, I was introduced to the horrors of human trafficking through a movie I watched with my family that was inspired by true events. As soon as the movie had finished, I began looking for information about human trafficking. There was so much information that it immediately overwhelmed me, but I kept reading because I needed to know more.

After I was done reading, I was frustrated and confused as to why I had heard very little about a business that makes roughly \$99 billion every year worldwide through the sale and forced labor of human beings.

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain labor or some type of commercial sexual act. Millions of men, women and children are trafficked throughout the world.

The U.S. is one of the worst countries for human trafficking. Hundreds of thousands of people are brought into the U.S. each year to be sold, and over 50% of the active criminal trafficking cases in the U.S. involve children.

Women and children are disproportionately affected by human trafficking. They make up 71% of all victims of trafficking worldwide. Many factors, including poverty, illiteracy, gender discrimination, low levels of education, regional conflicts and lack of job opportunities, put women at a higher risk for trafficking. They fall victim to traffickers when they seek out opportunities for work and are unknowingly drawn into a job situation they cannot escape.

There is a common misconception that most people who are trafficked are thrown into a white van by a stranger and are never seen again. This couldn't be farther from the truth. People who are trafficked often know the person who takes them in some capacity.

Traffickers connect with victims through social media and might promise them work and financial security. They groom the victims to gain their trust until they are able to convince them to meet in person. Oftentimes, traffickers buy gifts for those that they are grooming.

When the trafficker has successfully connected with a victim, they slowly pull them into their world so they are able to find something they can use to exploit or coerce them. Once the trafficker has found an angle to use against them, they use it as blackmail so that the victim willingly obeys what they are told to do. The victim is sometimes never seen again.

Traffickers use many coercive methods to keep control of their victims once they are in their possession. Some of these tactics include threats of violence to the individual or their family, false promises of financial security or withholding necessary documentation. Victims are also often marked with a tattoo to indicate that they are "property" of the trafficker.

Human trafficking is modern day slavery, yet for some reason it's not the headline story on the nightly news.

It's not accurately depicted in many movies. When it is included, it's usually just to provide a plotline. There aren't people protesting in the streets or starting movements to get the attention of lawmakers. It's not a trendy issue, so it doesn't sell. Because it's not trendy, people don't feel the need to discuss it.

It's too big and too real of a problem, so it's easier to avoid it or to let someone else do the work.

Human trafficking has many faces, but it doesn't matter which aspect you're talking about, as long as you're talking about it. The longer something is kept in the dark, the easier it is to continue that action or practice. This is why it is so important to bring this topic to light. The more people that are educated on the

There is a common misconception that most people who are trafficked are thrown into a white van by a stranger and are never seen again... People who are trafficked often know the person who takes them in some capacity.

people will fall victim to the same trap.

This is not a partisan issue. This is a human rights violation and should be treated as such.



Moira Elliot is a first-year biology major. She is a guest writer for Newswire from Sunbury, Ohio.

Satirical opinion: why single people suck

It's getting close to Valentine's Day, and as a person in an awesome relationship, I'm here to share my opinion on single people.

First and foremost: they suck. Why, you ask? Why do single people suck? Well, even though I can't remember what it's like to be lonely, I will draw from experience to explain why single people suck so much.

I'll begin with the holidays, a.k.a cuffing season, a.k.a when the ravenous beasts emerge from their nests in desperation to find a mate. Fake holidays such as "Galentine's Day" or calling hangouts with friends "dates" stem from single-sickness.

Forming gangs — cringey replications of what someone like me gets to enjoy, are enacted every season like a holiday ritual attempting to summon men, women or whoever will "cuff" the singles. It's all a hoax to make themselves feel better.

Speaking of which, let's move onto Instagram posts. Single people always have the "I love myself," "single Pringle" or "forever alone LOL" captions written in their bios. It's an immediate flag for single-ness that can be caught a mile away. Yes, I'm sure you love yourself, Jessica, but you're not in a relationship so...try harder. And please, stop sending yourself flowers or candy.

Arguably, the couples who talk about themselves non-stop are more tolerable than constant spams on Snapchat about being "a bad B who doesn't need anyone" in contrast to yesterday's "I'm so hot please let me be your gf" type. Especially if that single person is the type who brings other people down through comparison.

You know them: wondering aloud why those who are "uglier" are in a relationship before them. Well, Susan, maybe that's because you need to work on yourself first, or stop rejecting advances from anyone who doesn't look like Harry Styles. If you're single, should you really be picky? Something to think about.

For my next point, I'd like to focus on the amount of free time single people have. Without dedication to another person, the impending, damning realization of how lonely one is, is imminent. And then that loneliness becomes annoying because if you're friends with them, the singles will constantly ask for attention.

They'll refuse to understand why you need to go on a date instead of hangout with them for the fifth time that week. Or even worse: they'll become an unavoidable and unapproachable third wheel. The dreaded status of friendship is too awkward to talk about yet annoying enough to resent.

The couple doesn't want to hurt the feelings of a lonely single, for they are already fragile.

If you're a single person with infinite free time, I recommend picking up a hobby so you can let your friends escape your chilling grasp. It doesn't mean they don't love you, they're just exhausted from trying to bear the burden of a single friend.

In my humble opinion, if you're single, you're probably boring. How many interesting people do you know who willingly choose to be alone? Unless you're a mega genius who has dedicated life to a craft — which isn't really being single, honestly — then get to work.

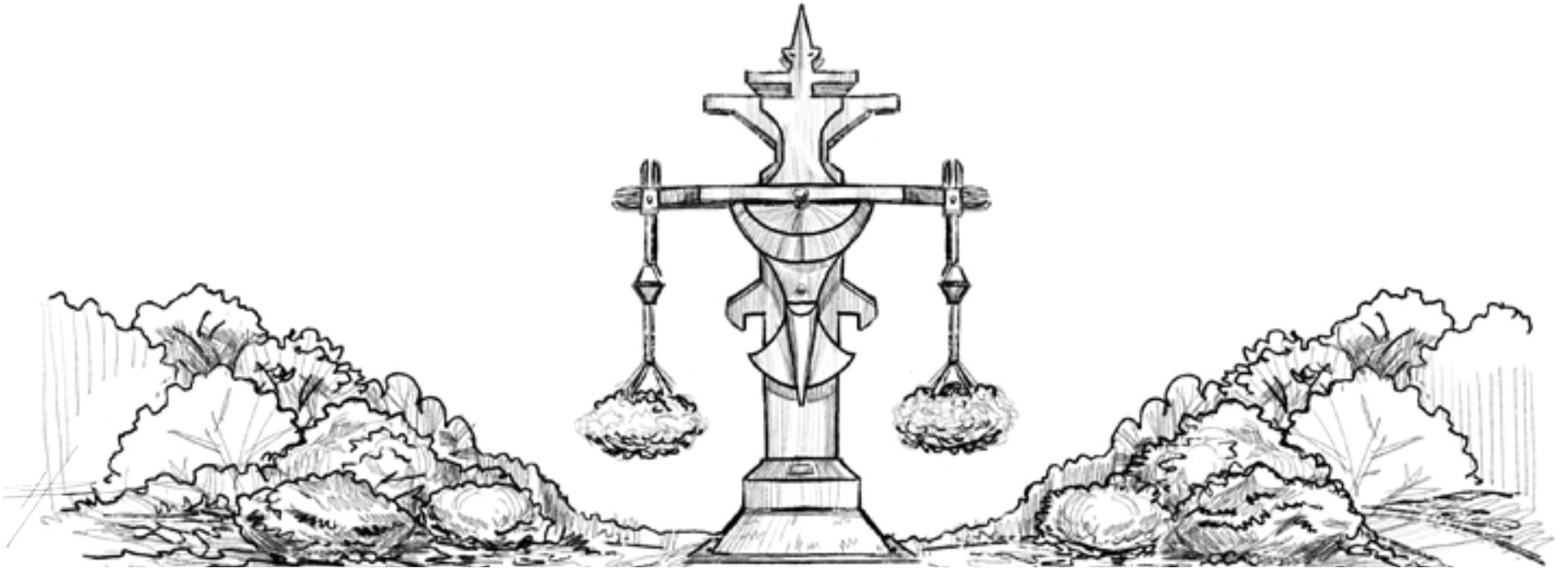
In fact, I should give a warning for singles out of my concern for the future. Avoiding the work to become interesting will eventually turn into avoiding relationships at all. You'll start wearing fedoras, only drink-

ing Mountain Dew and demanding tendies from your mother's basement because no one has ever accepted your advances. My PSA is to help the sucking singles out there become interesting and stop being lame by finding someone to love.

These are my sweetly compiled reasons for why single people suck. It's impossible to refute a claim based on obvious common sense and reason. If this offends you... you're probably single. Happy Valentine's Day!



Morgan Miles is a first-year Philosophy, Politics and the Public major. She is a staff writer for Newswire from Trenton, Ohio.



Analysis: Bucs top Chiefs in Super Bowl

Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady wins his NFL-record 7th Super Bowl

BY WILL PEMBROKE

Multimedia Show Manager

Whether you ended up watching the Super Bowl for the halftime show, the commercials or the actual game, there was no denying that it was quite the spectacle this year.

It was a welcoming sight to see 25,000 socially distanced fans produce some sort of a crowd at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa Bay, Fla.

Among that crowd were 7,500 vaccinated Tampa Bay-area health care workers, invited by the NFL to attend as a “thank you” for their commitment to helping people amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year’s Super Bowl was unique for non-pandemic reasons as well. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers were the first team to play the Super Bowl in their home stadium. On top of that, they won it all.

As for the game itself, it was a lopsided affair. Quarterback Tom Brady and the Buccaneers dominated quarterback Patrick Mahomes and KC both offensively and defensively, winning with a final score of 31-9.

Brady and the Bucs’ offense struggled out of the gate, punting on their first



Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

Tom Brady won his NFL-record seventh Super Bowl on Sunday as the veteran quarterback threw three touchdown passes in the win. The Buccaneers defense was the star as they shut down Patrick Mahomes.

two possessions. However, the Bucs’ offense picked up the slack, scoring through the air and on the ground.

Running back Leonard Fournette, a.k.a “Playoff Lenny,” carried the ball 16 times for a total of 89 yards and a touchdown.

Veteran tight end Rob Gronkowski also showed out with six catches for 67 yards and two touchdowns.

Brady’s stat line was similarly impressive, finishing the contest with just over 200 yards and three touchdowns to capture his all-time leading

seventh Super Bowl title.

Despite these offensive performances, the story of the game conversely was the Buccaneers defense.

Led by linebackers Devin White and Lavonte David, the Bucs’ defense locked down a red-hot Chiefs’ offense.

KC wide receiver Tyreek Hill torched the Bucs for three touchdowns and over 200 receiving yards in a regular season matchup between the two teams.

The Super Bowl was a different story, with Hill being held in check for most of the game. Patrick Mahomes, young superstar and 2020 Super Bowl MVP, struggled mightily to get the Chiefs’ offense going.

Mahomes was pressured on 29 of his 56 drop backs, an astounding number compared to the mere four pressures Brady received all game.

The story of the game for KC was their terrible offensive line play. The team featured only one offensive lineman who began the season as a starter, missing star tackles Eric Fischer and Mitchell Schwartz to injury.

From a legacy standpoint, Tom Brady’s seventh Super Bowl victory not only tops the list for players all-time, but it also gives him the edge in Super Bowls for individual teams, surpassing the New England Patriots and the Pittsburgh Steelers who have won six times apiece.

Now that the NFL season has come to a close, stay tuned for NFL offseason coverage.

Men’s and women’s tennis open up seasons

Men drop road match at Ball State while women win first two matches

BY JAKE GEIGER

Staff Writer

Xavier men’s and women’s tennis teams kicked off their 2021 season last weekend. While the men’s team fell just short at Ball State, the women’s team won their first two matches of the year to start their season on a high note.

In Muncie, Indiana, the men’s team fell to Ball State 4-3 to begin their season at 0-1. Xavier won the doubles portion of this match 2-1.

The No. 1 doubles team of Arnaud Restifo and Matt Graft defeated Ball State’s Chris Adams and Vince Orlando 6-4.

Srdan Pejic and Shashank Reddy gave the Musketeers their second victory by defeating Danilo Kovacevic and Bryce Bonin 7-6 and narrowly winning the tiebreaker 7-5.

Eli Herran quickly re-tied the match 2-2 as he defeated Reddy 6-4, 6-3 in the No. 6 singles match. Grad student Arnaud Restifo gave the Musketeers a lead once again as he cruised to a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Kovacevic.

Ball State and Xavier would then split the number two and No. 5 singles match to make it 3-3 overall.

The No. 4 singles match would determine the winner,



Photo courtesy of @XavierWTEN on Twitter

Xavier’s women’s tennis picked up two wins this weekend, knocking off Illinois-Chicago and Eastern Michigan. The men’s team dropped their first match against Ball State, but return home to play Bellarmine this Sunday. The women’s team will take on Northern Kentucky on Friday.

and the Cardinals came out on top with a victory from Vince Orlando as he defeated Xavier’s Srdan Pejic 5-7, 6-4, 6-3.

The women’s team started off strong as they defeated Illinois-Chicago 5-2 and Eastern Michigan 7-0. The third doubles team of Kaitlin Ruether and Imani Graham breezed to a 6-0 victory to start the match up 1-0.

Ahmeir Kyle and Emily Thomas also dominated their first doubles match with a 6-1 win. Sophomore Anna Rog-

genburk had a huge win for the Musketeers at the No. 2 singles spot by defeating Agnes Gustafson 6-3, 5-7 and 10-6 in a third set tiebreaker.

Ahmeir Kyle, Kat Lyman and Imani Graham also had singles victories to cap off an overall impressive performance.

A day later, the Musketeers once again played some great tennis by defeating Eastern Michigan 7-0. Ahmier Kyle and Emily Thomas won 6-3 in their No. 1 doubles match, while Imani Graham and

Kaitlin Ruether would coast with a 6-1 victory of their own.

Imani Graham had a 4-0 weekend overall as she defeated Vered Bert in the No. 4 singles spot 6-1, 6-1. All of the singles matches were wins for Xavier as Ahmeir Kyle and Anna Roggenburk highlight the team with dominant performances.

Kyle defeated Isabelle Pompa 6-0, 6-1 and Roggenburk handled Eastern Michigan’s Vasavi Ganesan 6-2, 6-2.

The men’s upcoming match against the University of Kentucky on Friday was postponed due to COVID-19 issues.

Their next scheduled match is a home match on Sunday, Feb. 14 against Bellarmine University at 4 p.m.

Women’s tennis will try to keep their undefeated season alive as Northern Kentucky comes to town this Friday at 1 p.m.

Xavier will then travel to Blacksburg, Virginia on Sunday to face Virginia Tech.

XU swim drops dual meet on road

Kali Fischer, Andrew Martin star in the pool for Musketeers against Miami

BY ROBBIE DZIERZANOWSKI
Staff Writer

Xavier men's and women's swim teams picked up five individual event wins but were ultimately swept for losses against the Miami RedHawks in their dual meet.

To open the meet, Xavier women's 400 medley relay of Kali Fischer, Alison Herman, Taylor Hogan and Clara Keiser took third place with a time of 3:52.85.

Later in the meet, freshman Kali Fischer swept the backstroke events with a pair of double first place finishes with a 56.72 in the 100-yard backstroke and a 2:03.51 in the 200-yard backstroke.

Freshman Clara Keiser tied for second in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:07.67 and took fourth in her second individual event, the 100-yard breaststroke.

In the distance events, senior Emma Kauffeld took second in the 1000-yard freestyle, and freshman Erin Ritz took second in the 500-yard freestyle.

To close out the meet for the women's team, the 200



Photo courtesy of goxavier.com

Xavier men's and women's swimming dropped a dual meet on the road at Miami (OH) last weekend. The Musketeers did win five individual events, but neither the men's nor women's team could pull off the win.

freestyle relay consisting of Lorelei Gaertner, Maureen Cummins, Kali Fischer and Clara Keiser finished in second with a time of 1:37.90.

Most notably, Xavier women's team had two individual first place finishes, five second place finishes and three third place finishes.

High placements were ultimately not enough to beat the RedHawks with Xavier's women's team falling by a final score of 186.5-66.5 and

dropping their first meet of the season for a 2-1 record.

On the men's side, the Musketeers started out the meet with a fourth place finish in the 400-yard medley relay comprised of Jon Bernard, Davis Klein, Joey Mullen and Andrew Martin.

Two of the men's three first place finishes came from sophomore Andrew Martin, as he won the 200-yard free style with a 1:38.98 and the 500-yard freestyle with a 4:31.70.

Sophomore Jon Bernard was not quiet either, picking up a win in the 200 back with a time of 1:48.83 and taking second in his other individual event, the 200-yard individual medley.

Despite winning three events, taking second in two events and third in one event, the Musketeers could not muster a win against the RedHawks, falling by a final score of 194-68 to drop their record to 1-2 on the season.

The women's team returns to the pool next weekend when the Musketeers travel to Ball State to face the Cardinals on Feb. 13 at noon.

Men's soccer splits road contests to open season

Musketeers drop overtime thriller against No. 12 Kentucky, beat ETSU

BY GRACE CARLO
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Xavier men's soccer fell 2-1 in overtime to No. 12 Kentucky in their second game of the season, dropping their record to 1-1.

Kick-off was at 1:30 p.m. at the Wendell & Vickie Bell Soccer Complex in Lexington, Ky. on the University of Kentucky's home field.

Junior Brock Lindow broke open the game with the first goal for Kentucky assisted by junior Daniel Evans in the 35th minute.

The Musketeers trailed the Wildcats at halftime until sophomore Karsen Henderlong, assisted by Jerome Jolly, scored his third goal of the season to tie the game to 1-1 in the 51st minute.

At the end of regulation, the teams were locked at 1-1, sending the game to overtime.

After a few back and forth chances, sophomore Eythor Bjorgolfsson scored the game-winning goal for the Wildcats in the 97th minute on a penalty kick.

With this loss, the Musketeers fall to a 1-1 record, while the No. 12 Wildcats propel to 6-1 after the matchup.

Prior to the loss against Kentucky, the Musketeers beat East Tennessee State (ETSU) 2-0 in their season opener last Friday.

The first goal was scored



News wire photo by Desmond Fischer

Karsen Henderlong starred for the Musketeers, scoring two goals in the Musketeers season opener against ETSU and one in their 2-1 overtime loss against Kentucky. Henderlong said he's excited to be playing again.

by Henderlong in the 60th minute off a ball played from Justus Kauppinen for his first career assist at Xavier.

The second goal of the game was scored once again by Henderlong off a ball played by Bryce Curran in the

68th minute. It was Curran's fourth assist in his career.

Xavier's defense stepped up in a big way in the win, lim-

iting ETSU to zero shots on goal. The Musketeers outshot ETSU 6-0 in shots on goal, and 9-3 in total shots. The Musketeers also attempted four corner kicks in the match.

The Musketeers also drew 11 fouls against the Buccaneers, while only committing three of their own.

When asked what he is most looking forward to this season, Henderlong said that he's simply excited to play again.

With 2020 Big East fall sports being postponed to the spring due to COVID-19, fall athletes know the importance of staying safe in order to play.

"It has been just over a year since we have played. Just exciting to be back on the field," Henderlong said.

He also noted how different NCAA sports have looked this season, especially the way COVID-19 has impacted the team's social dynamic.

"I think the team has done a great job adapting to COVID," Henderlong said. "We have a bunch of guys who want to play and are willing to sacrifice socially to play this year."

He continued to say that it is difficult for players to maintain social relationships with their friends while trying to stay safe to be able to compete.

The Musketeers return to home turf on Wednesday, Feb. 17 against Bellarmine.

Golden Globes show little promise

The good, the bad and the ugly of this year's Golden Globe nominations



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia commons.com

The famous Golden Globes unfortunately do not stir excitement from fans. Nominations for the prized awards were announced, highlighting films and actors/actresses that may not deserve all of the recognition received.

By BEN THOMSON
Staff Writer

Remember when *Parasite* won best picture last year? That was pretty cool. Generally, the Golden Globes kind of suck. It's not a secret that the nominees are chosen based on fame of the filmmaker rather than merit of the movie. They are useful, however, for mapping out the nominees of other award

shows. They're never 100% correct, but generally most Golden Globe nominees go on to compete in the Academy Awards. So, against my better judgement, I checked out the list of nominees. Then I checked again to make sure I read them right. I can't entirely blame Globe voters for this year's turn out. It's kind of hard to award movies in a year where there were so few releases in the

first place. But, there's a deeper issue at play here. Rather than go through all 26 categories, I've decided to give a general overview of what the competition looks like. **The Good** Before I navigate the minefield of mistakes made by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, I'd like to give credit where it's due. Unsurprisingly, *Mank* received the most recognition, bringing home

six nominations, including Picture, Director and Actor. While it wasn't my favorite of the year (that one was nowhere to be found), I'm glad it got as much recognition as it did. I was also glad to see Thomas Vinterburg's *Another Round* receive a Best Foreign Film nomination.

The Bad Let's begin with *The Trial of the Chicago 7*. Aaron Sorkin's second feature film as a director certainly wants to be a relevant piece of cinema. In doing so, however, *Chicago 7* falls into the neoliberal trap all of Sorkin's writing ends up in. The intention was there, but nothing of substance was said. But of course, award shows love to nominate that kind of thing. They also seem to love nominating five-year-old taped Broadway performances.

Yes, *Hamilton* on Disney+ has been nominated for not only Best Musical or Comedy, but also Best Comedic/Musical Actor and Supporting Actor. Besides making absolutely no sense, nominating *Hamilton*, a musical that hasn't exactly aged that well, goes to show how disconnected and out of touch the Golden Globe voters actually are. Speaking of...

The Ugly *Music* is perhaps the most egregious nomination at this year's Globes. This is Sia's directorial debut that follows a young girl with autism. For starters, the film hasn't come out yet. Nobody, not even critics, had seen or heard of *Music* when the nominees were announced. What was known, however, was that Maddie Ziegler was cast as the titular character, despite not having autism herself. As if that wasn't bad enough, the film was heavily promoted by Autism Speaks, a controversial organization that sees autism as a disease that needs to be cured. And the worst part? Films like Spike Lee's *Da 5 Bloods*, Shaka King's *Judas and the Black Messiah* and Ma Rainey's *Black Bottom* received little recognition (in *Bloods'* case, none), despite each being well received.

Could it be that yet another awards show chose to nominate an ethically questionable film instead of something made by a Black filmmaker? I'm absolutely gobsmacked. At this point, all we can do is hope that the Oscars do a better job with nominations. F*ck the Golden Globes; all my homies hate the Golden Globes.

Foo Fighter album provides perfect *Medicine*

By ANDREW ZERMAN
Staff Writer

Do you remember when you were in kindergarten and you had that finger painting project, and you think it looks sweet at that moment, but 15 years later you laugh at it? That is what the cover of the Foo Fighters newest album, *Medicine at Midnight*, looks like. The Foo Fighters are a hard rock band that recently celebrated their 25th anniversary with former Nirvana member Dave Grohl as the lead singer.

The album itself is an eclectic mix of songs. Half of them are softer dance songs that are reminiscent of Prince or David Bowie, while the other half are the gritty rock songs that the Foo Fighters are known for. This album is one that will keep Foo Fighters fans content but is unlikely to win over any new fans. The album starts out strong with "Making a Fire." The song opens up with a punk rock sound that does not escalate.

From the very beginning of the song, there is an all-female chorus that interjects with "nah-nah-nah-nah" as the song hits its climax point. The chorus takes up a fairly sizable portion of the song, but it acts as a great contrast

to Grohl's singing. The lead single and the second song on the album was "Shame Shame" which was released in November. It has a mellow sound that is reminiscent of Prince. It is four minutes of hitting the cymbals with undercooked lyrics and Dave Grohl softly singing the word "shame" 52 times. Picking this song as the lead single was a poor choice because: a) there are no other songs remotely like it on the album, and b) the song led many people, including myself, to think that the entirety of the album would be as bad as this song. I would argue that "Cloudspotter" is the best song on the album because it encompasses the styles of all of the songs on the album. It is both a dance song and a workout song.

The song opens up with a series of guitar riffs and then the drums join in. An all-female chorus acts as the backup vocalists for Dave Grohl when the song is on a dance music beat. The song then descends into hard grunge rock that features Grohl as the sole vocalist. The song see-saws between the two respective genres. This song would have been an appropriate song to have as the lead single.

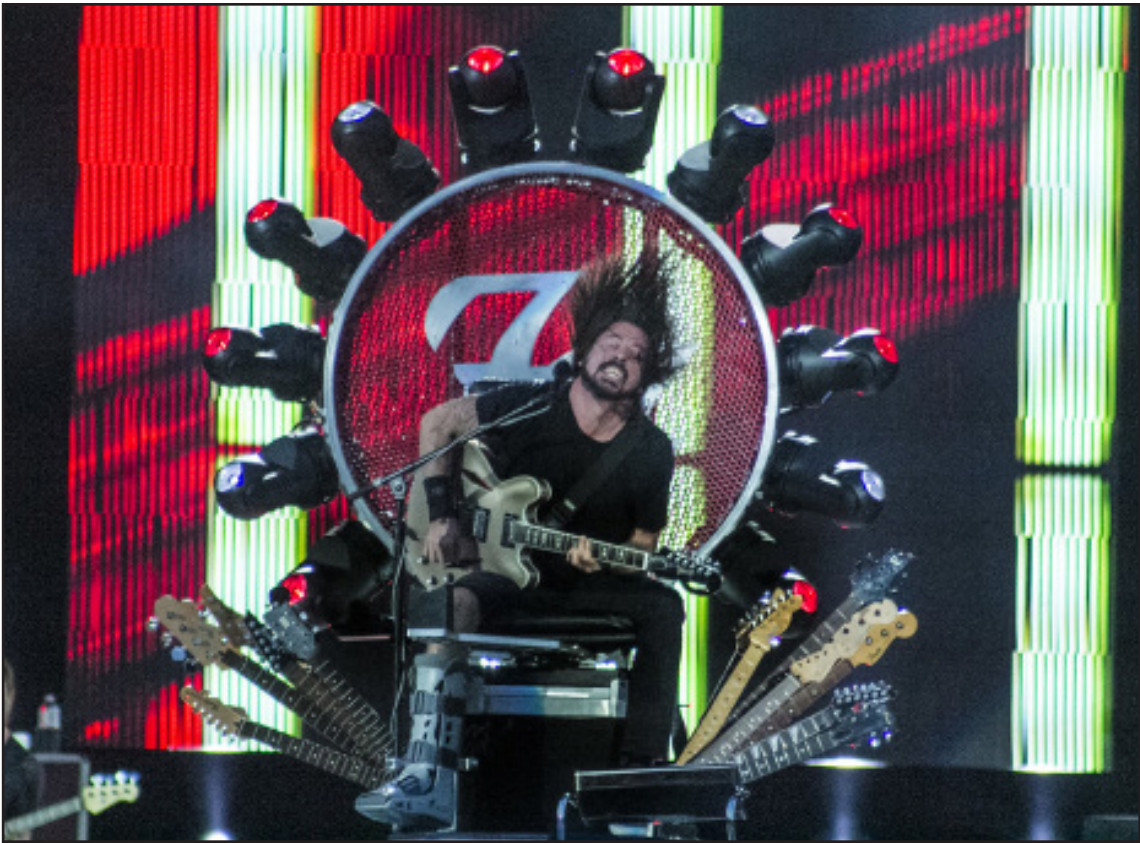


Photo courtesy of Flickr.com

The Foo Fighters newest album, *Medicine at Midnight*, is an overall enjoyable album, but lacks overall cohesiveness. It provides enjoyable sounds with highlights of acoustic guitar and thought provoking lyrics.

"Waiting on a War" was the third released single, and it ponders Grohl growing up during the Cold War and thinking about the times that his 11-year-old daughter lives in right now. The lyrics are everything that "Shame Shame" is not. They are heartfelt and evoke emotion. They make people think about the current state of the world. The song is

heartfelt and touching, with an acoustic guitar until the final minute. The final minute is typical Foo Fighters rock. The overall product can feel a bit underwhelming because The Foo Fighters took a four year-long hiatus. It only produced nine songs that lasted 36 minutes. It felt like one of those albums where they struggled to find their sound in an at-

tempt to avoid being the déjà vu band that AC/DC is. I am buying the vinyl because I thought that it has some good songs, but I would not praise the whole album as spectacular.

Total score:

★★★★☆

Valentine's proves valuable for all

Couples conquer Valentine's

BY WILL PEMBROKE
Multimedia Show Manager

For those of you reading who find yourself in the “taken” category or that awkward “talking” stage (P.S. just ask them out!) this Feb. 14, listen up.

There are a few key ingredients that go into making what I'd call the perfect date. You may be wondering why you should take my advice.

After being in a relationship for over three years, I can say that I've had my fair share of relationship holidays, and trust me, you don't want to f*ck up Valentine's Day.

To all my heterosexual cou-

ples out there, they will never tell you what they want.

Same sex couples have an advantage in this case;; straight couples are notorious for not quite understanding what's going on in their partner's head.

She will never tell you she wants flowers. Ever.

If she does, you're in trouble. He will never tell you he wants chocolate. Ever.

If he does, you're similarly in trouble. This is because the minute you have to ask your significant other to do something, it means they didn't think to do it first.

Valentine's Day is all about

anticipating your partner's wishes.

She doesn't want to ask you to buy her flowers, she just wants you to buy them. I can say with certainty that, unless she's deathly allergic to flowers, this is a pretty universal truth.

If you don't pay attention to anything else in this article, heed my advice on this. Make your expectations clear — crystal clear.

The worst-case scenario is that one of you outdoes the other and ends up feeling bad.

Have the conversation beforehand so that you're on the same page: is there a budget?

Are we just doing cards? Are we going to a nice dinner? Are we splitting the cost of dinner?

However awkward this conversation may be, I can guarantee it won't be as awkward as when one of you shows up with a giant teddy bear, Fanny Mae chocolates, a gift card and a love letter while the other shows up with a heart shaped pizza.

To summarize, be an equal contributor. Valentine's Day is about both partners making each other happy. To do that requires that both partners contribute to the night equally.



Palentines party properly

BY OLIVIA VALKNER
Guest Writer

The more popular holidays in February include gathering around the TV to watch sports and showering your significant other with affection and gifts.

For those who do not understand the allure of the Super Bowl, and for those who have yet to find their own valentine, February seemingly has nothing to offer.

In an attempt to raise “singles awareness,” the Newswire team decides to spread awareness about a severely underrated holiday: Palen-

entine's Day. The holiday celebrates all friendships on the eve of Valentine's Day, Feb. 13.

This year, take some advice from the Newswire team and celebrate the relationships you share with your friends in the most platonic, yet loving way possible.

You can have a movie marathon. Whether it's your favorite 2000s rom-coms or some new Netflix originals, it is definitely time to break out the popcorn. Might I recommend a revisit to the twilight series, because nothing is as strong as the bond shared be-

tween friends who romanticize vampires and werewolves.

Go get food with your Palentines. Cincinnati has so many options when it comes to food, so take your pals out and help support small businesses.

Whether that be for breakfast, lunch or dinner, the city's many restaurants offer a wide variety of dining experiences. (Be sure to check our previous issue's restaurant review.)

Alternatively, go on a dessert rampage.

Fun fact: calories don't count when the treats are shared with friends. Take a

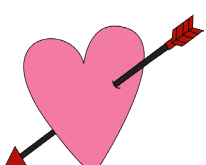
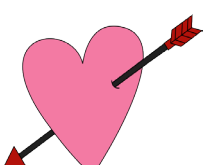
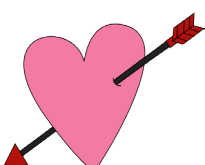
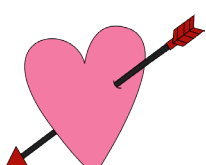
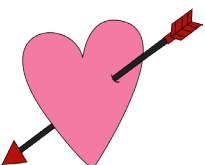
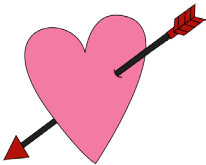
trip to the Caf and hope that it will have something to satisfy your sweet tooth.

I also recommend making Palentine's Day cards for your friends.

This holiday is all about celebrating any and all friendships, and the best way to strengthen them is by letting your pals know that you care.

If you are looking for some funny puns or pickup lines to use on your friends, be sure to check out the back page for a good laugh.

Let your friends know that you care about them this Feb. 13.



Singles are ready to relax

BY GUS NATIONS IV
Staff Writer

You know, both of my peers who wrote this article with me had an all-too-optimistic approach to this abysmal holiday.

As someone who has never had much luck with the ladies, I am here to tell you that Valentine's Day is not all that it is cracked up to be.

Think of me as the Grinch of Valentine's Day.

Picture this: It's Feb. 14. You're tired. It was a long day of school. Maybe you just had

an exam that didn't go well. Maybe you have a long essay that you haven't started and you need to grind it out all night in order to have a shot at getting it in by that 8 a.m. deadline.

But wait... your stomach sinks as you get a text from your partner reminding you of the plans that you made three weeks ago for tomorrow and the realization hits you like a ton of bricks.

It's Valentine's Day and you don't even have a card, let alone a cheap box of chocolates.

Now let's take a step back:

this is an easily avoidable situation. All you had to do was NOT pop the question and voila — your Valentine's reverts back to a night of peaceful studying and relaxation. You get to sit withdrawn from your roommate as he stresses on what to get his significant other for this fateful day.

In the days leading up to Feb. 14, you smile wryly and chuckle to yourself, the master of your own loveless universe, as you see him stressfully online shopping to find just the right chocolate or just the right teddy bear.

Surely nothing is better

than this.

Personally, this Valentine's Day will play just as it has for the last 19 years of my life: I will wake up, go about my day, maybe go for a run, hit the Caf and smile to myself as if I have figured out life's great mystery.

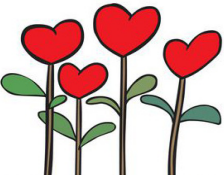
I'll pat myself on the back as the happy couples go by, content with the fact that not a single bit of my hard-earned money will go to chocolate.

Maybe I'll even steal a couple of paper hearts decorating campus.

Oh, you are a mean one, Mr. Grinch.



Photo courtesy of tumblr.com



FROM: